

24th David L. Clark Graduate Student Research Seminar Convenes in Chicago

George J. Petersen

Forty graduate students and fifteen professors gathered for two days in Chicago for the 24th David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in Educational Administration & Policy (NGSRSEA). The David L. Clark seminar is sponsored by Divisions A and L of AERA, UCEA, and Corwin Press and provides students with a unique opportunity to interact with accomplished scholars and get valuable feedback on their research.

Each year, students are chosen to participate in the seminar through a rigorous selection process: first, they are nominated as candidates by their department chair or dean; second, they develop a detailed research proposal which outlines salient features of their study; finally, the proposals are blind reviewed by members of the planning committee, which selects the forty highest-ranking nominees.

Participants engaged in a variety of activities designed to enrich their professional development as researchers. Sessions began on Friday, April 25, with a formal welcome from Dr. Patrick Forsyth (representing AERA Division A), Dr. Catherine Marshall (representing AERA Division L), and Dr. Michelle Young (Executive Director of UCEA). This greeting underscored the rich tradition of the seminar, both in terms of distinguished scholars who have participated as facilitators, and with respect to the consistently high quality of graduate students over the seminar's tenure.

After the welcome, Dr. George Petersen introduced a panel session titled, "Applying the Lens of Practice: An Examination of Current Issues Facing Schools." Local educators, Mr. Marty McGreal, Ms. Lori Huebner, Dr. Carmen Sanchez, and Dr. Carlos Azcoitia discussed pressing issues that face teachers, administrators, students, and parents in the Chicago Public Schools.



Seminar participants then divided into small groups where work sessions focusing on the research being conducted by the graduate students would be discussed. Students gave detailed presentations of significant components of their studies and discussed challenges that their topic and approach posed. Each student received substantive feedback from peers and scholars.

After hours of intense and useful work, participants adjourned their groups to dine and listen to a panel of distinguished faculty who discussed various aspects in the search for an academic position. The panel was introduced by Dr. Michelle D. Young and comprised of Dr. Mark Gooden, Dr. Margaret Grogan, and Dr. Andrea Rorrer. The panelist's comments were insightful and sparked an interesting exchange of questions and comments between members of the panel and seminar participants.

Saturday began with Dr. Gary Anderson introducing another panel session, entitled: "Research in Educational Administration and Policy." The panel included Dr. James Earl Davis, Dr. Julie Mead, Dr. V. Darleen Opfer, Dr. Paula Myrick Short, and Dr. Mark Smylie. Each of these scholars explained the empirical and theoretic substance of their research, how they became interested in the areas they study as well as while providing sage advice for the participating doctoral students.

Participants then began once more to do small group work. After a very delicious buffet lunch where students and faculty had the opportunity to interact and socialize, Dr. Mark Gooden introduced the last panel of the seminar. The panel was entitled "Diversity and Educational Research." This panel included Dr. Gary Anderson, Dr. Chris Dunbar, Dr. Flora Ida Ortiz, and Dr. Linda Sue Warner. These scholars shared their insight into various dimensions of the professional, political, social, and moral aspects of diversity in the higher education research community.

Faculty participating in the 2003 Clark Seminar include:

Gary Anderson, Robert Crowson, James Earl Davis, Chris Dunbar, Mark Gooden, Margaret Grogan, Julie Mead, Darleen Opfer, Flora Ida Ortiz, Brian Perkins, George J. Petersen, Andrea Rorrer, Paula Myrick Short, Linda Sue Warner, and Michelle Young.

Students participating in the 2003 Clark Seminar include:

Curt M. Adams, James G. Allen, Laura L. Aten, Anthony Biscione, Daria Buese, Kimberley L. Chandler, Menthia P. Clark, Jane Gordon Coggsball, Shelby Cosner, Timothy G. Cybulski, Saran Donahoo, Kathleen E. England, Maxine Fisher, Joseph J. Flessa, Jennifer Goldstein, Elizabeth R. Gutierrez, Kathrine J. Gutierrez, Lynda E. Irvin, Li-Chuan Kao, Carol Karpinski, Joseph Korevec, Allan F. (Bud) Livers, Jr., Deborah Mapp-Embry, Samuel H. Melloy, Sue E. Mutchler, Carrie B. Myers, Brian C. Ratliff, Kristen Rickey, Michael Scales, Kristina A. Scott, Paul H. Shepherd, Steven P. Shidemantle, Andrew M. Smith, Andrew Sobel, Judy K. Statler, Lori A. Stengel, Rick Vanosdall, Linda R. Vogel, Dawn G. Williams, Deborah E. Witt, and Peter Zeitoun.